

EDITED BY
WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,
AND BEVERLY TUCKER.
CITY OF WASHINGTON.

JUNE 16, 1854.

O. H. P. STEWART, is our authorized agent for collecting accounts due this office, and for obtaining new subscribers in Virginia.

GEORGE W. MEASON is our authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertisements in Washington, Georgetown and Alexandria.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate, yesterday, Mr. Rockwell, the senator appointed by the governor of Massachusetts to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Everett, appeared and was sworn. Mr. Pearce reported a bill for the settlement of the claims of the creditors of the late republic of Texas. A joint resolution explanatory of the act making appropriation for the improvement of Red river was passed.

The vetoed Indigent Inmate bill was further considered, and Mr. Clayton spoke till nearly four o'clock in its support.

In the House of Representatives, the bill to modify the Postage law was discussed during the morning hour. The civil and diplomatic appropriation bill was then considered in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and considerable progress made thereon.

THE GREAT "PERFIDY."

The freehold journals of the country are still harping on the "Nebraska perfidy," as they call it. They look upon that measure, great as it is, as but the first step in a long political stairway. They make out the statesmen who conceived and carried out that measure, men of such wisdom, foresight, and ability, that it is wonderful they should not be willing to follow their guidance. They think that the Nebraska bill is but a part of a great system of which the acquisition of Cuba, a large slip of Mexican territory, the recognition of Dominica, and a long list of other things, form the other parts. They think in the language of the Boston *Atlas* whose equanimity seems to be wonderfully disturbed, that "it is a covert attempt to increase the number of slave States, so as to give the south a perpetual preponderance in the Senate of the United States."

That such was the object of the projectors or supporters of the bill nobody really believes; and we have no hesitation in asserting that its sole design was, as its sole result will be, to organize a territorial government on a plan consistent with the principles of the Constitution. To any collateral advantage which may be gained by the passage of the bill, and the establishment of the principle, the south is justly entitled—not because she is a mere section of the Union, not because she maintains, within her limits, an institution against which the pseudo philanthropists of the *Atlas* are arrayed, but because she is under the aegis and protection of the same great instrument to which she has subscribed, and to which alone she looks for protection.

It has long been our wish to unsectionalize this whole question—to try it, without prejudice, by the touchstone of the Constitution—and whatever may be the result of the investigation, to render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's. In this we doubt not we will have the approbation and support of the true patriots and true statesmen of every section of the Union.

In what manner the passage of the Nebraska bill can affect the acquisition of Cuba, we are at a loss to divine. The great provision of that measure, the repeal of the Missouri compromise, had certainly no bearing upon a country which even the most prejudiced of freeholders will admit to be south of 36° 30'.

But we are told by the *Atlas*, who, like his illustrious namesake can bear no less a weight than the whole world upon his philanthropic shoulders, that it is a covert attempt to give a perpetual preponderance to the south in the Senate of the United States. And pray, how shall we designate that policy which has already given that unjust preponderance to the north, and seeks, by its opposition to the Nebraska bill, and its principles higher than the Constitution, to perpetuate the same preponderance? Well may we advert to that good old fable of the lawyer whose bull goaded his neighbor's ox, and whose leucations were considerably enlightened by a simple inversion of the parties to the suit.

But with what consistency can the *Atlas* complain of an undue proportion of southern senators when with so bad a grace it denounces as degenerate and peridious those patriotic sons, not of the north nor of the south, but of the Union, who sacrificed all the applause of stupid stagers and of loud huzzas for the maintenance of a Constitution which they are sworn to support?

HOW STRANGE IT IS—

That opposition to annexation should come mainly from that portion of the Union which engrosses nearly all the profit arising from any extension of territory.

The opposition to the annexation of Texas was exceedingly violent; the opposition to the acquisition of California and New Mexico, still more so, and the opposition to the peaceful and honorable acquisition of Cuba is not less.

And yet nearly the entire profits of these acquisitions have and will inure to the benefit of those opposed to them.

In the case of Texas, the subject of slavery was, it is true, made a prominent ground of objection, but this did not apply to California and New Mexico, against whose annexation still greater opposition was made.

All the shipping engaged in the Texas trade belonged to the opponents of its acquisition; all the flour imported into Texas comes from parties opposed to its annexation; all the manufactures received into it comes from anti-Texas men. Of the thousands of shipping which have been engaged in the California trade, the whole of it is owned by the opponents of its acquisition. All the goods, wares, and merchandise sent there are from parties opposed to its acquisition. Every dollar of its treasure sent to the Atlantic, goes exclusively into the pockets of the most bitter opponents of its acquisition. They furnish all its supplies and receive all its gold—That gold which has multiplied railroad

throughout the north until it is covered with lines as with a spider's web. The north is indebted for its enormous prosperity to the gold which has been received from this State, whose entrance it so violently opposed. And what evils, we emphatically ask, counterbalance these advantages?

If Cuba should ever be annexed, the north will exclusively supply her wants of merchandise, manufactures, and breadstuffs, and furnish all the shipping, and in return get sugar free of duty, while the south will furnish nothing and receive nothing.

We say it is strange that opposition should come from such quarters; we also say that it comes from pedagogues, literary, and clerical dabbles in politics, and not from substantial, practical business men.

We remember well during the election campaign while the anti-Texas fever was at its highest, that in the democratic procession, transparencies abounded with such inscriptions as "Polk, Dallas, and Texas." The democracy boldly met the question then and conquered; and in the case of any peaceful and honorable acquisition, a similar flag will ever triumph, all the abolition howlings to the contrary notwithstanding.

There lies not that man at the north who has any property at all, who has not had it greatly enhanced by the acquisition of the Territories, so fiercely opposed by freeholders and abolitionists. For their future government let them bear this in mind.

A NEW PARTY.

We are much gratified to see from our exchanges that know-nothingism finds but little favor with the regular press of the country. It appears before the country under circumstances of such strong suspicion, it seems to be such a confused jumble of ill-assorted and variant materials, it comes cloaked and masked in so thick a manner, and assumes so wretched a name, that it is beginning to excite distrust, dislike, and even horror, among the thoughtful people of the country. To give up one of the known, respectable, and established parties for a thing that is new, uncertain, mysterious, and to say the least of it, doubtful character, is like terminating existence in this world, and relinquishing all its pleasures and all its certainties, to tempt the unknown and untried realities of the next life.

We are glad to see that most of the southern journals are denouncing that secret political organization, and warning their readers against its snares and its blunders. How any intelligent, thoughtful, and cautious man can join any secret political organization, we cannot comprehend. If any new political truth has been discovered, why should it be hid under a bushel. Like the sun, it should shine on all alike. If replete with virtue, power, and happiness, its blessings, instead of being confined, should be diffused. If it has any new lights, it should hang them out. If it purports the accomplishment of a great political object, it should make that object known.

Why should it surround itself with darkness and veil itself in mystery? Be its objects what they may, it comes in such a questionable shape, that the people who have a fixed and an honest political creed demand to see it, to speak to it, to know it, before they can trust it. A secret political society, with good principles and good objects, if such a thing can be conceived, would be unworthy of respect; for the means resorted to for its extension would be unworthy means.

It savours too much of treasons, stratagems, and spoils. It looks too much like a dark and traitorous conspiracy. It is the first time that a secret political society has attempted in this country to seize upon the reins of government. The founders, sages and patriots of the republic were hostile, irreconcilably hostile to such organizations, and the statesmen of the present day are alike hostile to them.

When a man is invested by the laws of the country with the honorable rights of American citizenship, he should go up to the polls and cast his vote as a citizen, and not as a member of a secret order. He has no political rights in virtue of his membership of such an order. We lament that, in this happy country, so large a number of men should agree to build up a secret society and make it superior to the well defined creeds of known parties, and superior to the laws of the land. If such a society should be founded by the greatest man in the nation, if Washington himself were its founder, we would regard it as dangerous and worthy of condemnation. But when it is born in obscurity; when it is said to be the conception of a man of little merit, no distinction, and ill fame—for so it is said—it deserves, no matter who may have been entrapped into it, the unqualified condemnation of the country.

We cannot witness, with patience, this insidious attempt to break down the democratic party of the country. That party has time and again triumphed over open enemies on a fair field. It has now to crush a secret and insidious foe.

THE CINCINNATI GAZETTE—ITS COMPLAINT.

The Cincinnati *Gazette* declares that it is impossible to satisfy the south." It complains grievously, and groans as if suffering the utmost anguish. It thinks that the appetite of the southern States is insatiable, and that, like little Oliver, they still ask for more. They are not satisfied with the Nebraska bill; they are not satisfied with the execution of the fugitive slave law in Boston, but complain that it costs so much to execute it. So speaks the *Gazette* in its unhappiness. Now if the *Gazette* is at all candid, it will not lay the blame of the expense incurred in the execution of the law in the case that recently occurred in Boston, on the south. The master of the slave made no disturbance. He got up no mob. He only desired peacefully to recover his property. The abolitionists raised the mob, and to put down that mob the government was compelled to order out troops and increase the police force. These things cost the money. Does the *Gazette* expect southern men to get down on their knees and thank the abolition incendiaries for threatening their lives and stealing their property? Does it expect them to say that the abolitionists are right to oppose the execution of the laws of the United States and saddle the government with expense? If so, it is very unreasonable.

The *Gazette* says:

"The people of the South know that there is this reluctance to return their slaves, yet they frame our laws so as to insult and outrage the feeling of the north as grossly as possible; frame them so that they know they can rarely be executed without exciting to riot and bloodshed; frame them as if they intended that no fugitive should ever be seized and sent back to slavery, without making the whole land ring with it."

Now this paragraph contains several inaccuracies. First—the people of the North have as much to do with making "our laws" as the southern people. Secondly—the object in framing these laws is not to insult or injure anybody; it is to carry out the guarantees of the constitution and to secure sufficient protection to property. Every law should be so framed as to make it efficacious, and if its execution is resisted by riotous mobs, the fault lies at the door of the bad men who compose those mobs. If, when there is a law compelling the return of a fugitive slave, the master can recover that slave only by risking his life and encountering great expense, what would be his condition without that law.

But the *Gazette* says:

"A modification of the law giving the fugitive a jury trial, would, perhaps, have prevented any excitement in its execution."

Now, there would be two objections, if no more, to the proposed modification. First: The jury would infallibly be packed against the master. Secondly: Men are, in the language of the law, tried by their peers. Now, as there are no slaves in the northern States, a jury of peers for southern slaves could not be found.

We have already, and on several occasions, accorded to those citizens of Boston who kept aloof from the mob, and aided in the execution of the law, a high degree of credit. They deserve the respect and the thanks of the good men, both of the south and the north.

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Congressional.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

Senate—Thursday, June 15, 1854.

Mr. SUMNER presented the credentials of the Hon. JUDITH ROCKWELL, senator from Massachusetts, appointed by the governor of that State to fill the vacancy occasioned by the resignation of the Hon. EDWARD EVERETT.

Mr. ROCKWELL appeared and took the oath prescribed by the Constitution.

BILLS PASSED.

Mr. RUSK reported a bill for the relief of Rebecca B. Birdall, and the same was considered and passed.

Mr. SLIDELL reported a bill for the relief of William Duer; and the same was considered and passed.

CREDITORS OF TEXAS.

Mr. PEARCE, from the Committee on Finance, reported back the bill providing for the settlement of the claims of the creditors of the late republic of Texas.

CHIPPEWA INDIANS.

On motion of Mr. SEBASTIAN, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill from the House of Representatives, to provide for the extinguishment of the title of the Chippewa Indians to the lands owned and claimed by them in the Territory of Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and being their domestication and civilization.

Mr. SEBASTIAN having explained the bill, Mr. PEARCE said he regarded the bill as preserving what should be the act of a treaty with the Indians, and he could not support it.

Mr. WELLES thought the subject ought to be postponed, to give time for examination, and therefore he moved it be postponed. And the motion was agreed to.

RED RIVER RAFT.

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ARRIVAL OF THE ARABIA.

Three Days Later from Europe.

The Cunard mail steamer Arabia left Liverpool on Saturday, June 3d, at 1 p. m., and arrived at New York early on Tuesday evening.

THE WAR.—From Vienna, May 31st, it is stated that on June 2d the Austrian summons to evacuate the Turkish territory would be sent to St. Petersburg.

Letters from Belgrade and Widdin state that Austrian troops were continually coming down the Danube in the direction of Orsova and the Walachian frontier. Considerable forces are now concentrated in Hungary and Transylvania. Another dispatch says, "Austria sends troops to Orsova."

MORE RUMORS OF PEACE.—The latest rumor in Paris is that the Emperor of Russia again manifests a disposition to negotiate for peace. The rumor has been so often set afloat that we attach no value to it—especially not to the statement that the czar will withdraw on condition that the Powers will agree to the establishment of the *status quo*. If there be any truth in the above propositions they can only be made with the view of detaching Austria and Prussia from the alliance, those powers being supposed to be adverse to any act that would tend to dismember or diminish the Russian empire.

THE ARABIC SEA.—Since last advices no news whatever has come to hand respecting the movements of the allied fleets in the Black sea.

THE BALTIC.—We have no further operations in the Baltic. Nor is there any authentic statement of the extent or result of the recent attack of Hango. The Russian account in the *Neue Presse* is as follows: "The English fleet, twenty-six strong, battered the outworks of Hango Vids, on the 28th, but were compelled to withdraw, much damaged."

(A doubtful) dispatch from Copenhagen states that Gustava was cannonaded on Monday 22d, without effect.

Advices by letter are of date 28th from Copenhagen. They state that on the 26th Sir James Graham, Lord High Commissioner, was preparing to bombard the fortress of Gustava. Admiral Plumridge with the flying squadron had been sent on special service to the Gulf of Bothnia. Admiral Corry lay at Gotska Sandoe. Stockholm letters of 23d mention nothing of Napier having captured Gustava.

Reports from Finland are of May 15th, via Stockholm. Wyborg had been declared in a state of siege, and great energy was displayed in strengthening the citadel, which is not very strong. Some hundreds of citizens were expressed to work at the fortifications. Fears were expressed of a landing from Napier's fleet, Wyborg being eighteen miles distant from Stockholm. The arrival of a regiment of Cossacks of the Don had added to the general excitement. A part of the Swedo-Norwegian fleet was to quit Elfsnabben on the 18th, to cruise in the Baltic.

A SQUADRON FOR THE WHITE SEA.—In the British House of Commons, Sir James Graham stated that an Anglo-French squadron had sailed for the White sea, but without present instructions to blockade Onega or Archangel.

THE SIEGE OF SILISTRIA.—The following semi-official announcement appears in the Paris *Morning Post*: "A communication from Belgrade, by telegraph, dated May 29th, states that the Russians have attacked Silistria with all the disposable forces they had upon that point. This attack, directed simultaneously from the Danube and by land, was renewed four times, and was four times repulsed by the besieged. It is stated that Omar Pasha is preparing to go to the assistance of the place. The resistance of Silistria continued with success on the 26th May."

Turkish accounts, through Vienna, state that on the 27th, the fortress still defended itself bravely, and the news of a disposition to treat on the part of the Turks was altogether false. The word "capitulation" has never been uttered. There were 90,000 (query?) Russians around Silistria. Operations from the Danube and the height of the river. The damages done to the fortifications by the bombardment were repaired almost as soon as made. The Russians, at demand of the Turks, have promised not to direct their fire on the hospitals.

Latest accounts do not mention the personal presence of Prince Paskevitch before Silistria. He had ordered General Gortschakoff, who was at Karasse, to march to Silistria with the artillery of reserve; but the general being kept in check by Omar Pasha, had not been able to effect that movement. So late as May 26th, the communications were open between Silistria and Shumla.

The French papers discuss the probabilities of Silistria holding out, and come to the conclusion that its fall is not imminent.

OTHER POINTS ON THE DANUBE.—According to Russian papers, the Turks have evacuated Turtakia, Nicopolis, and Sistova, and the Russians have occupied those places.

From Schumla, 26th May, it was telegraphed that General Paskevitch had commanded the bombardment of the fortress of Bucharest and Ibraila. This had given rise to a report that he intended to raise the siege of Silistria.

Isakder Bey, on the 22d, had a rencontre with the Russians, near Turnu, and had sent in many prisoners to Kalafat.

Omar Pasha, Marshal St. Arnaud, and Lord Raglan, had reviewed the Turkish army. Marshal St. Arnaud made a flattering speech to the effect that he was happy to serve with the troops as the Turks had proved themselves to be.

There are now 50,000 French troops at Galipoli.

GRECE.—Eight thousand French troops have disembarked from Epirus, after having taken possession of the Greek ship of war.

King Otto has accepted the Anglo-French ultimatum, has proclaimed neutrality, and effected a complete change of ministry. The following is a list of the new cabinet: Mavrodoras, president and minister of finance; Porciras Agropoulos, minister of foreign affairs; Kalerigi, minister of war; Patoalos, minister of justice.

Letters from Athens, of 22d May, state that the Queen was in a state bordering on frenzy, and that it required the entreaties and tears of the king and the ladies in waiting to keep her from placing herself at the head of the army. Her baggage was all packed for her departure on this Quixotic enterprise, but, on second thought, she has had the boxes uncorded, and comes to remain at Athens.

Accounts without date, but which seem to be no later than those already published, say that the insurrection which was subdued in Epirus, had acquired new strength in Thessaly. Tami-Kara-Tassos had withdrawn to Mount Athos with a portion of his band. The Turkish troops sent against him to Omilia had returned to Salonica with four of his cannon.

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